

## **Fourth GAIN World Conference** **Paris, France, June 14-15, 2000**

The Fourth GAIN World Conference was a very successful gathering of aviation safety professionals in Paris, France, on June 14-15, 2000. Hosted by Air France and Airbus Industrie, the conference attracted over 175 aviation safety professionals from 28 airlines, 8 airframe and engine manufacturers, 5 avionics suppliers, 20 government organizations, and 41 other aviation organizations. A total of 23 countries were represented at the conference. True to the conference theme of "Safety Information Sharing: Concept to Products," a number of initial products from the implementation of GAIN were presented to conference participants to expand the collection, analysis, and sharing of aviation safety information.

Pierre Gourgeon, General Manager and Chief Operating Officer, Air France; Alain Garcia, Senior Vice-President, Airbus Industrie; and Pierre Graff, Director General of the French DGAC, provided the welcoming remarks and stated their commitment to sharing safety information and the GAIN program.

GAIN working groups presented several products illustrating their hard work over the past 15 months. The Aviation Operator Safety Practices Working Group provided every conference attendee with a 236-page "Operator's Flight Safety Handbook" and discussed how to use it most effectively. The Analytical Methods and Tools Working Group demonstrated various analytical tools that are being used by airlines to turn safety data into useable information. The Global Information Sharing Prototypes Working Group demonstrated two prototype systems that can securely exchange airline safety event reports within trusted groups in near-real time. The conference also featured a demonstration of a GAIN web-site with links to 100 publicly available safety data and information websites from around the world and descriptions of about 60 methods and tools that can be used to analyze safety data. Through the efforts of the Reducing Impediments Working Group, ICAO will include in Annex 13 a recommendation that "States should promote the establishment of safety information sharing networks among all users of the aviation system and should facilitate the free exchange of information on actual and potential safety deficiencies."

Other conference sessions addressed important issues related to sharing safety information, including "Experience with Safety Information Sharing Within Airline Partnerships" and "Economic Benefits of Airline Safety Programs." Representatives of government agencies convened a workshop to discuss how governments can best contribute to and benefit from GAIN. The conference ended with a panel of experts from many facets of the aviation community discussing the "Future Direction for GAIN."

Key conference messages included:

- The aviation community shares a moral responsibility to work toward a goal of zero accidents.
- All members of the aviation community--pilots, controllers, engineers, governments--must work together and be equally responsible for improving aviation safety.

- Analyzing the precursors to accidents and incidents and sharing the information captured are key to reaching the goal of zero accidents.
- Standardized terminology, common analytical tools and protection of sensitive data are needed for sharing to be successful.
- GAIN has been transformed from a general concept to a concrete program.
- GAIN must obtain additional industry and government staffing and funding sources to support working group and other activities.
- GAIN working group activities should be expanded from their current focus on flight operations to include air traffic and maintenance issues.
- GAIN should use regional workshops to help bring working group products to areas of the world where they are most needed.
- GAIN is providing the building blocks to promoting and facilitating ongoing and new safety information sharing among those participants that can directly affect the safety of the aviation system worldwide.

Tim Logan, Director of Flight Safety and Quality Assurance, Northwest Airlines and Chair of the GAIN Steering Committee, presented the first “GAIN Outstanding Leadership Award” to Christopher Hart, Assistant Administrator for System Safety, Federal Aviation Administration. Logan then closed the conference by challenging the aviation community to implement the products developed by the GAIN working groups and to work together to proactively share information to improve aviation safety worldwide.

+ + + + + + + + + +

More information about GAIN and about the conference can be found at <http://www.gainweb.org>.